

BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

R. C. WEBSTER

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. P. McGLYNN,

C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

BOROUGH OF DARWEN

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary
Administration
OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

and E. P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

1953-54

*MR. COUNCILLOR T. TAYLOR, J.P., MAYOR.

Chairman:

*ALDERMAN LADY HINDLE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR T. TAYLOR, J.P.

Ald. J. BRAITHWAITE.	Coun. Mrs. M. M. DUCKWORTH.
Ald. J. GREGORY, J.P.	Coun. P. S. HUNT.
Ald. H. D. HOLLAND.	*Coun. A. KAY.
*Ald. W. KNOWLES, J.P.	Coun. T. V. KEELAN.
Ald. E. YATES, JR., LL.B.	Coun. H. MARSDEN.
*Coun. N. BRIGGS.	*Coun. Mrs. M. M. MEGGITT.
Coun. Miss M. BROUGHTON, J.P.	Coun. G. A. PARKER.
Coun. C. CLAYTON.	Coun. F. H. SMITH.
Coun. W. K. COCKER.	*Coun. F. TAYLOR, C.C.
Coun. W. CONROY.	Coun. J. TAYLOR.
	*Coun. Mrs. M. K. TAYLOR.

CHARLES COUTTS BYERS, TOWN CLERK.

* Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	{	R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire		
County Council		
Senior Sanitary Inspector	{	EDMUND P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert.), M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods		
Director of Public Cleansing		
District Sanitary Inspectors	{	C. R. PALING, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert.), M.S.I.A. Cert., R.S.I. in Sanitary Science.
		H. RAMSBOTTOM, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.S.I.A.
		P. H. WATSON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., (Cert.) Insp. Meat and Other Foods.
Chief Clerk	{	J. BOLTON.
Clerical Staff	{	A. ALSTON. Miss E. BARON, Resigned 16/10/53. Mrs. O. B. PARRY, Commenced, 12/10/53. F. TOWNLEY. R. C. DAVIDSON.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Child Welfare.	Greenfield Institute.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays. 9-30 a.m. (Specialist).	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal Relaxation.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ultra-Violet Light.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Clinics.	Civic Health Centre.	Minor Ailments. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m., by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ophthalmic.	Civic Health Centre.	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Chiropodist.	Civic Health Centre.	Thursday, 9-30 a.m., By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.	Health Department, Victoria Street, Blackburn.	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation.
Cardiac Clinic for Schoolchildren.	Tullyallan Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	40, Duke Street, Blackburn.	Thursday, 9-15 a.m. by appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males — Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Females — Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis.	Civic Health Centre.	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

June, 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1953.

The general picture for the year is satisfactory with again a very low infantile mortality and a very low general death rate. Whooping cough of mild type was prevalent, but this increased prevalence represents the ordinary secular fluctuation. There were unfortunately two maternal deaths, but by coincidence both were due to a very unusual cause, almost as rare and as incapable of prevention as death from lightning.

The fact that nothing else calls for special comment is itself evidence of a satisfactory year.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindly support throughout the year, and all members of the staff for a year of good work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2915229x>

PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Summary of Statistics and Social Conditions.

1953

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Geographical Position ... Lat. 53° 41' 25" N. Lon. 2° 28' 32" W.	
Elevation above sea level	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation...Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.	
Area (in acres)	5,959
Population—Census, 1951	30,827
Population — Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1953	30,400
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1951	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1953	10,850
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951	10,797
Rateable Palue	£193,531
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£765

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 13,313 insured adult persons, the average per cent. unemployed was 1.29. The corresponding figures for 1952 were:—Percentage adult unemployment, 2.7.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	217 ... 230 ...	447	Birth-rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate	6 ... 10 ...	16	estimated h o m e
				population mid-1953:
	Total	223 ... 240 ...	463	Crude 15.2
				Adjusted ... 16.1
STILLBIRTHS:	Legitimate	9 ... 7 ...	16	
	Illegitimate	1 ... Nil ...	1	Rate per 1,000 total
	Total	10 ... 7 ...	17	Births 35
DEATHS:				Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated h o m e
				population mid-1953:
	..... 224	..... 214	..... 438	Crude 14.4
				Adjusted ... 12.7
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION.	Respiratory T.B.			0.13
	Malignant Neoplasms, etc.			2.04
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			2
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births			4.17

**INFANTILE
MORTALITY.**
(Infants under
the age of
1 year.)

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate Infants	6	5	11	—
Illegitimate Infants	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Total Deaths	6	5	11	24

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns 25,000 to 50,000.
1944	46	46	44
1945	72	46	43
1946	34	43	37
1947	39	41	36
1948	31	34	32
1949	29	32	30
1950	36	29.8	29.4
1951	24	29.6	27.6
1952	34	27.6	25.8
1953	24	26.8	24.3

**OTHER
INFANT
DEATHS.**

	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages)	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	Nil	0.000

**NEO-NATAL
MORTALITY.**

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	5
Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births	11

Births.—The number of live births registered during the year was 463, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 16.1 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales, is shown in the following table—

Year.	DARWEN.				ENGLAND AND WALES.	
	No. of Births.			Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000	
	Male.	Female.	Total.			
1944	220	192	412	14.53	17.6	
1945	205	183	388	13.72	16.1	
1946	265	230	495	16.5	19.1	
1947	303	274	577	19.0	20.5	
1948	257	244	501	16.2	17.9	
1949	213	238	451	14.6	16.7	
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8	
1951	235	214	449	15.5	15.5	
1952	221	190	411	14.2	15.3	
1953	223	240	463	16.1	15.5	

Illegitimate Births.—The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per cent. of Live Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births
1944	28	6.79	4	142
1945	32	8.25	3	93
1946	30	6.45	1	33
1947	21	3.64	Nil	Nil
1948	15	3.00	1	66
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	Nil	Nil
1953	16	3.45	Nil	Nil

Stillbirths.—The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1,000 Births.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	
	Legiti- mate.	Illegiti- mate.	Total.		DARWEN.	ENGLAND AND WALES.
1944	21	1	22	53	0.77	0.50
1945	13	Nil	13	32	0.46	0.46
1946	11	Nil	11	21	0.37	0.53
1947	14	2	16	27	0.53	0.50
1948	12	Nil	12	24	0.39	0.42
1949	14	Nil	14	30	0.45	0.39
1950	17	Nil	17	39	0.54	0.37
1951	12	1	13	28	0.40	0.36
1952	11	3	14	33	0.45	0.35
1953	16	1	17	35	0.55	0.35

Deaths.—The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 438, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 12.7.

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

Year.	DARWEN.		ENGLAND AND WALES. Rate per 1,000.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	
1944	429	15.1	11.6
1945	440	15.5	11.4
1946	496	16.6	11.5
1947	486	16.0	12.0
1948	461	14.9	10.8
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3
1953	438	12.7	11.4

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	6	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	12	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	10	16	26
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	32	41	73
Coronary Disease, Angina	36	17	53
Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	3	7
Other Heart Disease	45	42	87
Other Circulatory Disease	13	14	27
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	12	8	20
Bronchitis	13	6	19
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	—	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2	5
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	—	3	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	6	10
Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	—	7
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	2	2
Congenital Malformations	3	1	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	11	19	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—	2
All other Accidents	4	7	11
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	1
Totals	224	214	438

General Provisions of Health Services.

A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services.—Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

Disease.	Cases Notified and Accepted										Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.									Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un- der 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	108	...	7	19	61	16	1	4	...	...	...	73	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup)	1	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Paratyphoid Fever...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
Measles (excluding Rubella)	30	1	14	13	1	1	..	..	...	..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	186	28	41	67	47	2	..	1	...	...	...	2	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal)	25	...	...	1	3	2	2	...	7	10	...	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	...	...	..	...	..	1	2	...	...	...	2	..
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	2	..	...	1	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	2	...
Non-Paralytic .....	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	3	1	1	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	..	1	...
Malaria— Contracted in: England and Wales	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	2	...	6	..
Totals	371	31	64	101	112	21	5	11	13	13	...	88	2

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years:—

Disease.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever	75	24	75	86	108
Diphtheria	4	...	15	59	1
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	314	267	340	473	30
Whooping Cough	72	242	76	41	186
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	33	12	23	18	25
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	4	...	3
Meningoccal Infection .....	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	2	...	1
Erysipelas	3	2	6	2	2
Dysentery .....	...	22	157	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	5	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis Non- Paralytic .....	...	1	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever	1	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	6	...	...	10
Malaria (contracted Abroad)	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	513	578	699	681	371

TUBERCULOSIS. Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions, and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1953:—

Age Periods.		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.									
0—1	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—5	.....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
5—10	.....	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	.....	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	.....	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
45—55	.....	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	...
55—65	.....	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
65—75	.....	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
75 and upwards..		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		9	2	7	5	3	1	...	1
		11		5		4		1	

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1943	15	5	5	...	25
1944	15	6	1	2	24
1945	7	5	5	3	20
1946	7	7	3	2	19
1947	23	5	13	8	49
1948	15	8	8	10	41
1949	6	12	5	2	25
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33
1952	11	10	2	3	26

**NATIONAL
ASSISTANCE
ACT, 1948.
SECTION 47.**

No case arose under this Section.

PART II.
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
(including Public Cleansing)
Housing, and
Inspection and Supervision of Food

BY

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Etc.
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CLEANSING

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Reservoirs.—Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs: Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton. A supplementary water supply is also available when required from a borehole in the centre of the town piped to Sunnyhurst Reservoir.

Purification.—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

Supply.—The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,649.

SAMPLING.

Chemical.—Seven samples of water from public supplies, and one sample from a private supply were submitted for analysis during the year.

The seven samples from public supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst the sample from the private supply was unsatisfactorily reported upon. The usual precautions were taken to render its use safe.

Bacteriological.—Twenty-four samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination, four from public supplies and twenty from nine private supplies.

The four samples from public supplies and six samples from private supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst of the remaining samples from the private supplies nine were unsatisfactorily reported upon and five were reported as doubtful. Further samples of these supplies are being taken periodically. Users are advised on precautionary measures.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:—

Pails	140
Water Closets	11,683
Waste Water Closets	1,427
Cesspools	1
Total	13,251

Conversions and Installations during 1953:—

New Water Closets fixed	158
Premises with one New Closet fixed	41
Premises with more than one New Closet fixed ...	9
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets	109
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Baths installed during the year	101
Urinals installed during the year	1
Waste Water Closets dismantled	1

Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions, on an increasing scale as labour and materials become available, will result in the total abolition of the 1,427 waste water closets.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is seriously polluted by industrial waste effluents. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of houses visited	1,350
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932)	140
Number of inspections of Schools	6
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces	135
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel	52
Number of inspection of Bakehouses	6
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	1
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	95
Complaints received and investigated	444
Number of re-inspections made	5,356
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases)	170
Number of rooms disinfected	141
Number of smoke observations taken	83
Number of drains, etc., tested	323
Total number of defects discovered	2,121
Informal notices served	2,121
Statutory notices served	104
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year	2,222

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains	87
Choked and Defective Sewers	13
Defective soilpipes and water closets	26
Defective downspouts, casing troughs, roofs and external walls	142
Defective plastering	263
Defective Roofs and Damp Walls	226
Dirty houses and premises	0
Dangerous buildings	9
Dirty and dilapidated closets	64
Accumulations of refuse	1
Defective or uneven gullies	27
Insanitary sinks	11
Defective fire ranges	56
Broken slop-pipes	15

Defective Flushing Cisterns	5
Defective tippers of waste water closets	0
Choked waste water closets	52
Choked water closets	46
Insanitary yards	41
Defective internal floors	94
Insufficient ventilation	198
Burst water pipes	17
Defective wash boilers	6
*Miscellaneous nuisances	623

* The Miscellaneous Nuisances include such items as defective pointing, defective woodwork of doors, defective pointing and putty around windows, etc.

SHOPS.

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work especially housing has limited visitation far below the level regarded as desirable.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Eighty-three smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instruction to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given. One of the main difficulties encountered in efforts towards smoke abatement is the variable quality and grade of the fuel supplied to manufacturers, who have little or no choice in particular supplies.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year forty-four houses were found to be infested (one house infested with bugs and forty-three houses infested with other vermin). All of these had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following are established in the district: Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor, and one fat melter.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL.

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was—Males 114.19. Females 13.42.

FACTORIES.

One hundred and forty-one routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting far below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

**CHIEF
SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS
OF THE
DISTRICT.**

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are:—

- The conversion of pail and waste water closets;
- The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;
- The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;
- The paving of back streets and unmade roads;
- The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder ;
- The conversion of latrine closets at factories.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

VEHICLES.

The refuse collection and disposal service is completely mechanised, the new tractor-drawn trailer tank for nightsoil collection being now in use for one day per week.

**REFUSE
COLLECTION.**

The frequency of refuse collection continues to be a source of great difficulty and vexation.

Some 30 years ago, the conversion of the then large size ash tubs into galvanised dust bins was undertaken and occupied a period of 3 or 4 years.

Between 1936 and 1939 the horse-drawn collection vehicles were replaced by motor-driven vehicles.

In 1937 the central destructor works were dismantled and thereafter refuse was disposed of by means of controlled tipping, first at the Bull Hill Tip, then at Sandy Lane Recreation Ground and later back to Bull Hill again, where it continues.

It had been hoped that the first two factors especially would have helped towards the establishment of a 7-day collection. This has not proved to be the case and for the past 2 or 3 years it has not been possible consistently to maintain even a 14-day collection.

Criticism continually arises because of this and it might be as well briefly to recapitulate in this report the factors which are operating against a regular and frequent collection. They are:—

- (a) In 1928 there were six horses and carts removing house refuse, and one motor vehicle collecting house refuse from the outskirts. Each vehicle had 3 effective loaders. From 1939 to

**REFUSE
COLLECTION**
(Continued).

date, 4 motor vehicles have dealt with all house refuse; each vehicle has four loaders.

- (b) The capacity of bins as compared with the former ashes bins is very much less as shown in the fact that in 1947 there were 1,000 bins more with a population of 30,250 and 10,416 inhabited houses than in 1928 with a population of 38,150 and 10,422 inhabited houses. Normally household refuse therefore more quickly fills the bin and nuisance more readily arises from overflows in winter periods and in cold weather.
- (c) Since the war, over 500 new houses have been built and it is expected that that number will treble itself within the next 10-15 years. This of course represents over 500 more vehicle refuse visits without augmented vehicles or increased personnel.
- (d) Shorter hours and the five-day working week, together with longer holidays have combined to slow down the frequency rate.
- (e) Increased holidays also obviously affect the frequency rate in the same way and the effect is felt long after the annual "Wakes" week.
- (f) So far as can be judged, the sickness with pay scheme seems to have had the general effect of increasing the sickness rate and the length of the sickness period.
- (g) Although the Department is no longer responsible for icy roads and the clearance of snow, nevertheless such conditions when they arise, even for short periods in the winter time have a marked retardant effect on the collection of refuse. As is well known, most of the back streets in Darwen are steep, narrow and uneven, so that in snow or icy conditions it would be to court disaster to send vehicles out on them.
- (h) The average quality of household fuel that has been issued during the past 4 years has been so very low that the non-combustible waste yield often reaches between 30 per cent and 50 per cent. Instead therefore of fuel ash constituting between 15 per cent. to 25 per cent. of the bin contents the rest being made up of bulkier non-combustible refuse, the fuel waste is occupying much more of the bin space, and the rest tends to early overflow.

It is often asked why if certain towns can have a 7-day frequency of refuse collection, Darwen cannot. It should be remembered that it is possible only to compare like with like and unless all the relevant factors and conditions are equal and comparable, the question is merely futile. And it should be obvious from study of the comments above that whatever datum frequency was the case 10 or 20 years ago, its reduction is inevitable now.

- (i) It appears that there is no possibility of solution without the increase of vehicles and personnel and this itself raises another difficulty because although vehicles are easily obtain-

REFUSE COLLECTION (Continued).

able, personnel are not, and we have had the utmost difficulty during the post-war years in replacing personnel who have retired or left the service. With the increase in the building of new houses referred to above, even although this will be to some extent offset by the clearance of unfit houses, the position cannot improve. It would seem therefore that the only alleviation possible for householders as the position stands, is for them to exercise the utmost care in using their dust bins. Nothing should go into the bin except fuel waste; any other bulky, non-combustible household refuse, paper, tins and discarded household articles should not be put in the bin but should be kept separately and stacked by the side of the bin.

Paper, tins and other metals are valuable for salvage purposes and are more easily collected if they are stored in that way instead of having to be separated at a later period involving wasteful time and trouble.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The system of controlled tipping continues to prove very successful. The Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip is the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive. It is hoped to find a suitable tip-site nearer the centre of the town in order to lessen this.

SALVAGE.

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers	192	17
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap	10	11½
Non-Ferrous Metals	Nil	Nil
Textiles—Rags, Carpets	7	13½
Waste Foods—Pigswill (after boiling)	223	15
„ „ Household Bones	0	13½
	—	—
Total	434	18½
	—	—

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £1,545.

The price of waste paper and container waste continues to rise slowly and there is no difficulty in disposal. The former salvage depot in the old destructor works yard is to be closed next year because of dilapidation and danger, and a large Nissen type hut sited at Bull Hill Tip is to replace it.

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1953. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Tip (4,077 loads)	6523	5	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (285 loads)	427	10	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse)	352634		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse)	17927		
Excreta		109	Loads
Excreta Pails Emptied	3697		
Sludge from Street Gullies	283		Loads
Street Gullies Emptied	20036		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks	6921		
Dust Bins added during the year	29		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles	12465		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper	3615		Miles

HOUSING.

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	37
(i) By local authority	28
(ii) By other local authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	9
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	28
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)	0

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	140
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	264
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932	140
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	264
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	85
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	55

2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	33
---	----

STATISTICS
(continued).

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	39
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..	28

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By local authority in default of owners ..	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	11

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

(e) Action under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879 (See note on Page 29)—

(1) Number of Houses to which orders were applied	30
---	----

**STATISTICS
(continued).**

4.	Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding	
(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	21
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
5.	Housing Act, 1949.	
(a)	(i) Number of schemes submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	6
	(b) By Local Authority to Ministry	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	6
(b)	(i) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals	6
	(b) Of the Local Authority	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	6
	(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings provided	0

OVERCROWDING.

“Overcrowding” as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding is fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, and is a problem aggravated by the acute housing shortage.

**OVER DARWEN
IMPROVEMENT
ACT, 1879.**

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879, were made against thirty houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. Seventeen of these were vacated by the end of the year.

**GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS.**

The chief difficulty is the inability to secure extensive repairs by informal action with the result that statutory procedure has to be invoked with all the additional work and time involved.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

APPEAL.

In May an appeal was heard at the County Court against three notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. The appeal was basically against the reasonableness of the cost of repairs having regard to the estimated value of the houses when the works should be completed.

The appeal was successful and the notices were quashed.

Subsequently the Corporation applied for a Compulsory Purchase Order with the intention of itself executing the repairs on the houses, and confirmation of the Order was awaited at the end of the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

SAMPLING MILK.

Biological.—Thirty-nine samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. All were reported as negative.

Bacteriological.—Fifty-two samples were examined during the year. Forty-five were satisfactorily reported upon, and seven were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the County Agricultural Officer.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK—See Tables I and II below.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1942, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding-stuffs, was as shown in Table III on Page 33.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF OTHER FOODS—See Table I.

TABLE 1—SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE

No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.
66	Milk	66	...
1	Rum	1	...
4	Whisky	4	...
1	Very Rich Fruit Cake	1	...
1	Sponge Cake Mixture .....	...	1
1	Gravy Browning .....	...	1
1	Quaker Oats .....	...	1
1	Walnut Toffee .....	...	1
1	Tincture of Iodine .....	...	1
1	Sultanas .....	...	3
3	Iced Lollies .....	...	1
1	Aspirin Tablets .....	...	1
1	Boracic Ointment .....	...	1
1	Zinc Ointment .....	...	1
1	Malt Vinegar .....	...	1
1	Ground Ginger .....	...	1
1	Sliced Peaches .....	...	1
1	Cough Mixture .....	...	1
1	Popcorn .....	...	1
1	Teaseed Oil .....	...	1
1	Beef Suet .....	...	1
1	Sausage .....	...	1
1	Ground White Pepper .....	...	1
1	Self-Raising Flour .....	...	1
1	Ice Cream .....	...	1
1	Beef and Ham Paste .....	...	1
1	Sago .....	...	1
1	Mincemeat .....	...	1
1	Dark Raisins .....	...	1
1	Christmas Pudding .....	...	1
1	Nut Mix .....	...	1
1	Mixed Fruits .....	...	1

TABLE II—SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE

Cons. No.	No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.	Result.	Action taken.
1	1	Seidlitz Powders	...	x	Av. weight of 3 white packets was 3.33 grms. B.P. Limits 2.25 & 2.75 grms.	The adulterations were not of a serious nature and were immediately corrected after formal approval to the manufacturers.
2	1	Pork Sausage	...	x	Contained 65 pts. per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	
3	1	Beef Sausage	...	x	Meat content 46% Deficient 8% of the minimum percentage required.	

**TABLE III—SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD
CONDEMNED DURING 1953**

Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food.
94 tins	Milk	13 tins	Stewed Steak	8 bottles	French Capers
236 tins	Vegetable Concentrate	1 tin	Crab	20 boxes	Dates
37 tins	Ham	1 tin	Lobster	9 pkts.	Dates
3 tins	Cream	4 tins	Minced Beef	5 pkts.	Rice Crispies
100 tins	Sliced Apples		Loaf	2 pkts.	Porridge Oats
320 tins	Fruit	5 tins	Jellied Veal	71½ cpls.	Rabbits
25 tins	Tomatoes	10 tins	Beans	1 box	Fish
5 tins	Soup	1 tin	Marmalade	7 stones	Fish
2 tins	Tomato Puree	10 tins	Fowls	lbs. ozs.	
4 tins	Corned Beef	2 tins	Pig Tongues	20 0	Oranges
11 tins	Salmon	1 tin	Grapefruit Juice	10 0	Onions
5 tins	Assorted Vegetables	6 tins	Pork Shoulder	30 0	Mixed Nuts
214 tins	Peas	1 tin	Mutton	1 0	Ox Tongues
21 tins	Ox Tongues	1 tin	Jellied Pork	8½	Butter
32 tins	Luncheon Meat	1 tin	Frozen Liquid	2 0	Cured Ham
3 tins	Rabbit	405 jars	Egg	10 0	Mutton Brawn
		3 jars	Fruit	12 0	Jellied Pork
			Banana Curd		

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a very low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for eight years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year—

No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises found infested.	No. of treatments carried out.	Estimated kill of rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of service.
780	Killed	prior to January, 1953		11,835
(including 470 Hen Pens and Gardens.	126	122	1,828	13,663

SEWER TREATMENTS.

Date.	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill.
May	160	177
November	149	755

INDEX

	PAGE.
INTRODUCTION	5
MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE	2
CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES	4
STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT	3

PART I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS	9, 10, 11, 12
BIRTHS—ILLEGITIMATE	9, 11
LEGITIMATE	9
LIVE BIRTHS	9, 10
STILL BIRTHS	9, 11
TOTAL BIRTHS	9, 10
DEATHS—CAUSES AND SEX DISTRIBUTION	12
INFANTILE MORTALITY	10
MATERNAL MORTALITY	9
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	10
TOTAL DEATHS AND DEATH RATES	9, 11
OTHER INFANT DEATHS	10
GENERAL INFORMATION	9
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES	13
PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE	14, 15, 16
COMPARATIVE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES	15
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948	16
NUMERICAL AND AGE INCIDENCE	14
TUBERCULOSIS—GENERAL	16
AGE GROUP, INCIDENCE, NEW CASES, DEATHS	16

PART II.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	19 to 30
CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT	22
DISINFESTATION	21
FACTORIES	21
MUNICIPAL HOSTEL	21
NUISANCES DISCOVERED, LIST OF	20, 21
OFFENSIVE TRADES	21
PUBLIC CLEANSING—GENERAL	22 to 24
REFUSE DISPOSAL	24
SALVAGE	24
SUMMARY OF WORK DONE	25
VEHICLES	22
RIVERS AND STREAMS	20

	PAGE.
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA	20
SEWERAGE	21
SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION	19, 20
SHOPS	21
SMOKE ABATEMENT	21
WATER—PURIFICATION	19
RESERVOIRS	19
SAMPLING	19
SUPPLY	19
 HOUSING	 27, 28, 29, 30
APPEAL	30
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	29
OVERCROWDING	29
OVER DARWEN IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1879	29
STATISTICS	27, 28, 29
 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	 31, 32, 33
FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING	31, 32
FOOD CONDEMNED	33
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS	31
MILK—SAMPLING	31, 32
RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION	33

SCHOOLS

